

## Salvaging Educational System of Nigeria from the Menace of Cultism: The Way Forward

Ige Akindele Matthew

Deputy Director, Ministry of Education, Akure, Ondo State, NIGERIA

[dele\\_divine@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dele_divine@yahoo.co.uk)

### ABSTRACT

In the world of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), the word ‘virus’ is ubiquitous. Virus is noted for destroying the computer system that harbours it and can destroy the system completely if not quickly removed from it. As applicable in computer system, cultism is a dreaded virus in Nigeria’s educational system, having defiled various attempts to remove it from the system. Due to the prevailing cult cases, the death of students, as well as the damage to properties through it, educational institutions in Nigeria have graduated from being centres of academic excellence to centres of wailing. The glory of educational system in Nigeria is fast slain on the high places due to cultism. How then are the mighty fallen. In this paper, the issue of cultism in Nigeria’s educational system is examined, from the perspectives of its origin, factors influencing it, effects in the system, and the country as a whole. Orientation of students of educational institutions, proper moral training of children by parents, improved funding of education by government, among other measures, are recommended for cultism to be removed completely from the educational system of Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Salvage, education, system, educational system, menace, cultism, virus, Nigeria, way forward

### INTRODUCTION

Education is ‘an instrument par excellence for effecting national development’ [1]. In Nigeria, Its provision for the citizenry has been a matter of priority for governments which is based on the desire to achieve two main objectives including qualitative academic and character training. It is expected that the outputs of educational system should be of good quality, to be able to compete with the colleagues at national and international levels. They should also be morally upright and good citizens in the society. Unfortunately, achievement of these two objectives in Nigeria leaves much to be desired. Outputs of educational institutions in Nigeria are now of low quality [2, 3, 4, 5] while indiscipline among the pupils and students is now an issue of concern to the education stakeholders [6, 7]. At present, student unrest, truancy, cultism, examination malpractice, drug abuse, among other misdemeanors, abounds in educational institutions in Nigeria, which are having negative effects on the system.

### MEANING OF THE CONCEPT ‘EDUCATION’

The word ‘education’ is derived from the Greek word ‘educare’ which means ‘knowledge’. [8] defines ‘knowledge’ as ‘understanding or familiarity gained by experience’. A school of thought however believes that education concerns only reading and writing. Those in favour of this submission, are arguing that an individual is educated when he/she can read, write, and able to communicate effectively in the society. Another school of thought is of the opinion that education is synonymous to the display of civilized behaviours at home and in the public. An individual is thus regarded as educated when he/she displays civilize/good behaviors at home and in the public. A lot of definitions of education abound in books, journals, and other periodicals. According to [9], education is the process by which society, through schools, colleges, universities, and other institutions

deliberately transmit its cultural heritage from one generation to another. Farrant (1964), cited in [10], defines it as the process of learning to live as a useful and acceptable member of the community to which one belongs. R.S Peters (1969), also cited in [10], also defines it as all-round development of a person (i.e. physically, intellectually, morally and spiritually) while [11] posited that it is the social mechanism which is designed to bring about in the persons that submitted to it, certain skills and attitudes that are judged useful and desirable in the society. From whichever perspective education is viewed, there is the basic fact through it, knowledge, skills, attitudes, values can be acquired by an individual, which can be applied to improve the situation in the community/society.

### SCOPE AND PURPOSES OF EDUCATION, IN NIGERIA’S CONTEXT

Education can be informal, non-formal or formal in nature. Informal education is organised at individual, family or community level. According to [12], it does not involve the curriculum, formal teaching and learning. Non-formal education consists of functional literacy, remedial, and continuing education outside the formal school system. It is the out- of- school education with no defined age group, rules and regulations, syllabus, certified public examination and regular certificate, which are peculiar to the formal education [12]. Formal education is the most organized form of education which can be acquired in educational institutions at primary, secondary or tertiary level. Such education is characterised by pupils/students of defined age limits, rules and regulations, classroom’s teaching, assessment of pupils /students, as well as the award of certificate at the end of training.

In Nigeria, primary education is meant for children of between the age of six and eleven years plus, while

secondary education is for children of the minimum age of 12 years [1]. Primary education can be acquired in primary while secondary education can be acquired in secondary school. As also indicated in [1], secondary education is divided into three years of Junior Secondary (JS) and three years of Senior Secondary (SS) Education, which constitutes basic education. Tertiary education is the climax of the education ladder which is aimed at enriching the knowledge and skills of individual beyond the level attained at primary and secondary levels. It can be acquired in universities, polytechnics, monotechnics, colleges of education, school of nursing, health technology, midwifery and others of higher status than the secondary [1].

Education in Nigeria, supposes to:

- inculcate national consciousness and national unity;
- inculcate the right type of values and attitudes for the survival of individual and the society;
- train the mind in the understanding of the world around; and
- enable a child acquire appropriate skills, abilities and competences both mental and physical as equipment to live in and contribute to the development of the society [1].

## MEANING OF CULTISM, ITS ORIGIN AND GROWTH, IN NIGERIA'S CONTEXT

The word 'cultism' is derived from another word 'cult'. 'Cult; however takes its root from the Latin word 'cultus', which means 'adoration'. [13] defines cult as '... a sect, a great often excessive admiration for a person or idea, the person or idea giving rise to such admiration, a fad'. According to [14], it is a system of beliefs, binding people of the same interest together, for the purpose of promoting and defending a common pursuit'. Richard Flagget, cited in [15] also defines it as a group of individuals, who share beliefs that are shrouded in secrecy, pursued under serious cloak of secrecy, expressed in rituals only known to members and protected jealously by members even at the risk of grave bodily danger'. In line with this is a definition by [16] that it is an organization whose activities are kept away from the knowledge of others. Such activities, according to [17] are covert, disguised, and usually carried out behind closed doors. The word cult is also regarded as 'secret society' which is a society or association not being solely a cultural or religious body that uses secret signs, oaths, rites or symbols, and whose meetings or other activities are held in secret; whose members are under oath, obligation or other threat to promote the interest of members or add one another under all circumstances without due regard to merit, fair play or justice, to the detriment of the legitimate expectation

of those who are not members'. [18]. Notwithstanding the divergent opinions in the definitions of cult in literature, cult can be described as a group of individuals (referred to as cultists) that share common beliefs, ideas, and whose activities are held in secret and guided by strict adherence to the established norms.

Reports [19, 20] indicate that the menace 'cultism' is over five decades old in Nigeria. It started in 1952 when National Association of Sea Dogs (Pyrate Confraternity) was established at University College, Ibadan (now University of Ibadan). This was then an association that was aimed at correcting the ills in the society and in the university particularly. According to [21, 19], the motives of establishing Sea Dogs were: fighting non-violently but intellectually against imposition of foreign conventions; reviving the age of chivalry, and finding solution to the problems of tribalism and election in the country. Their activities were then noble and non-violent and intended to produce future leaders who will be proud of African heritage, abolish and fight tribalism, colonial mentality and oppression of the masses. Members of Sea Dogs were also fond of carrying out humanitarian services like donating blood to accident victims and those in dire need of it in hospitals.

Towards the end of 1960, the initial orientation and focus of Sea Dogs metamorphosed to criminal, illicit and clandestine activities thus changing it to what is now regarded as 'secret cult'. Many secret cults have since then emerged in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. In 1966 specifically, the Buccaneers emerged from the Sea Dogs due to the inability to meet the high academic standard set by Confraternity, as well as the struggle for positions and other doctrinal desires. In 1968, the Vikings, Mafia, Dragons, Black Beret, and others emerged. In 1977, the Neo Black Movement of Africa (Black Axe) was established. Reports [15, 20, 22] indicate that there are now over 40 different secret cults in tertiary institutions in Nigeria, including the Pyrates Confraternity, Marphites, Barracudas, Black Cats, Black Berets, Amazons, Black Axe, Eiye Confraternity, Ostrich, Flamingo, Nightingale, Buccaneer, Axemmen, Ibaka, Woodpecker, Parrot, Eden, Frigales, Daughters of Jezebel, White Angels, and Blue Queens.

## ACTIVITIES OF CULTISTS

For an individual to become a member of cult group, he/she must pass through some stages and ready to abide by the rules and regulations guiding it. [15, 20, 22] share the same opinion that before an individual can be accepted as member of a particular cult group, he/she must pass through the process of initiation and oath taking. Initiation involves indoctrination, orientation, rituals and rites, which an intending member must undergo, to be able to align with other

members. It is done in secret and in some cases involves drinking of blood or concoction and making mark on the body of such intending member, which can be used to recognize him/her among others in the future. According to [20], at times, intending member will be given difficult and wicked assignment(s) to carry out such as the killing of member of a rival cult group or other individual, which such group is having an axe to grind with; raping and destroying properties and his acceptance depends on the success attained in the heinous assignments. The next stage after initiation is the administration of oaths on the intending member, thus marking his/her final acceptance and readiness to conform to the rules and regulations guiding such cult group.

## WHY CULTISM IS PREVALENT IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS/EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN NIGERIA

Many factors can be attributed to the prevalence of cultism in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. [23] identified peer influence, parental background, societal decadence, erosion of education standard, militarization of Nigerian polity, lack of recreational facilities, quest for power and protection, lack of student union in campuses, erosion of traditional academic culture, as factors playing prominent role. Eneji (1996), cited in [23] opined that some students do join cult in order to have a sense of belonging and be well connected in the campuses. [20] also observed that some students do join the menace because of the need for financial assistance, desire to secure girl friends or protect themselves in campuses. In the view of [16], some students used to be attracted to cult because of the need for money, direction, comfort, and love. As far as [24] is concerned, youths join cult because it provides members with security, licenses to do anything and get away with it and seek vengeance. From the factors highlighted by authors, it implies that all the stakeholders in education, such as parents, society, educational institutions, students, and government, play roles in the spread of the menace in Nigeria.

**Parents' Role:** The primary role of parents is to provide good moral training for their children, so that they can be of good behavior and ambassadors of their homes in future. Many parents are however fond of abdicating their roles thus making their children to be morally bankrupt in future. It is thus not surprising that some cultists at the point of renunciation do attribute their memberships to over pampering by their parents when they were at tender age. There are some parents who are so carefree to the extent that they don't border to monitor their children's activities at home and in educational institutions. It is the belief of this kind of parents that teachers/lecturers should do everything for their children including teaching and character training. It is not surprising that some

children these days do carry sophisticated guns and weapons of their parents to institutions and using these to intimidate their colleagues anytime there is conflict between them. Among the Yoruba's in the Southwest of Nigeria, report [25] indicates that there is 'Ogboni secret cult' while among the Efiks of the Southeast, there is 'Ekpe cult'. In the Delta region, 'Ekime cult' exists while among the Edos of the Midwest, there is 'Owegbe cult'. These are few out of the secret cults in the society whose members are mostly adults. Many parents derive joy in being members of these cults, to boost their status as well as ensuring their economic, social and political security [20]. Some parents also enlist in cults to protect their children from the attack of spiritual forces. After the death of the head of family, who is a member of cult, it is a norm in Nigeria that he must replace himself with the eldest male child in the family, to ensure continuity. Many children are thus unwillingly enlisted into cult in Nigeria by their parents. Any male child that refuses to join such cult is usually threatened with untimely death and if lucky to escape death, will face misfortunes, which will make him to be unsuccessful in life. Children who are cultists in the society by virtue of their inheritance are fond of transferring their membership and experience to their respective educational institutions. Institutional cult is thus a transfer of societal cult in Nigeria. To worsen situation, many children of powerful and influential politicians, including ministers, governors, state and national assemblymen, are members of secret cults in Nigeria. Even if caught in the act, these wealthy and influential parents are fond of using their influence to secure the release of their children and enroll them in foreign institutions to prove their wealth and connection, as well as provide uninterrupted education for them. Presently, there is no stiff penalty for cultists in Nigeria. Apart from the few cases being announced in media (Newspaper, Radio and Television), many cult cases die naturally due to the connivance of parents of culprits with law enforcement agents and the judicial system. Because of the way cult cases are being treated with levity in Nigeria, many youths do indulge in it and believe that they can always have their ways at the end. Cultists believe that the worst that can happen to them is to be expelled or suspended from their institutions where their wealthy and influential parents can find alternative institutions for them, particularly in foreign countries. Marriage presupposes that couple should live together harmoniously till when death will separate them. When there is conflict at home, to the extent that couples are separated, the children will be separated from their parents thus making them to suffer inadequate parental control and moral training. The dejected children are thus most likely to join secret cult in educational institution to cope with loneliness and frustration.

**Society's Role:** in Nigeria, crime inclined films, involving the use of sophisticated guns and dangerous weapons, are being sold in the open market and shown on television, video, and even in cinema houses. Many youths also visit cyber café to watch the unlawful and immoral films on the internet. These have been encouraging them to master the pedagogy of crime and enlist in cult in their respective institutions where they can practicalise what they watched on the screen. It is now obvious that the issue of unemployment has reached a disturbing level in Nigeria [26, 27]. Many graduates of educational institutions now roam the streets in search for jobs but few are always lucky to be recruited by employers. Many students of tertiary institutions, for fear of graduating into the turgid labour market, do join secret cult, to protest the hopeless and depressing situation in the country and postpone their graduation, to keep them busy in the campuses. There is no doubt that the society is now materialistic. Wealth making now takes priority over education and hard work. The wealthy individuals in the society are celebrated, notwithstanding the source of their wealth. There is now 'get rich quick syndrome' among the youths in Nigeria. Many youths now talk about making money at tender age and prefer to engage in crime, particularly cultism in tertiary institutions, to achieve their goals.

**Parlous State of the Economy:** It is not a gainsaying that poverty is endemic in Nigeria. Many families live below standard, due to high cost of living, occasioned by the country's poor economy. Some students indulge in cultism, to create opportunities for them to steal and carry out robbery operations within and outside campuses and thus be able to keep their bodies and souls together.

**Educational Institutions' Role:** The attitudes of teachers/lecturers in educational institutions in Nigeria these days leave much to be desired. Campuses are now turgid of lazy and businessmen misnamed lecturers who take teaching as secondary job. Some male lecturers are also fond of victimizing male students who share female students with them. Many male students do enlist in cult to protect lecturers' inactivity in campus and protect their female partners from lecturers' oppression. Report [28] indicates that some lecturers are members of secret cults in Nigeria, where they either serve as 'god fathers' or 'patrons'. The level of sexual harassment of female students by lecturers in higher institutions according to him, has reached a disturbing level. Many female students are thus fond of enlisting in secret cults to protect themselves from lecturers' oppression. Attitudes of educational institutions' administrators towards governance also promote cultism. In some cases, student unionism will be banned in campuses while in those institutions where it exists, their activities are restricted. Many students thus enlist in cult to protest

the ugly situation in their campuses.

**Government's Role:** Availability of classrooms, laboratories, workshops, office space, library and other specialized rooms are required for impartation of knowledge to students while adequate hostel spaces are needed for habitation [29]. Over the years, inadequacy of infrastructural facilities has been a feature of educational system in Nigeria [2, 3, 27, 29]. In many institutions in Nigeria, classrooms are inadequate for students, which are in several thousands. Many students are fond of receiving lectures on their feet outside classrooms rather than on their seats. Some students must run to secure seats and space when it is time for lecture due to the limited chairs and space in the lecture rooms. Libraries, which are central to students' self-study and learning, are consulting centres due to lack of modern textbooks, journals and periodicals. Many students are now fond of reading at home and in classroom thus making such students to lack library etiquette. Hostel accommodations are also grossly inadequate for those that are willing to stay on campus thus giving room for squatting and accommodation racketeering in campuses. Report in [30] indicates that in a particular university in Nigeria, a bed space was sold for between ten thousand naira (N10, 000) and thirty thousand naira (N30, 000) (Nigerian currency) by students who were 'accommodation merchants'. The stress being experienced by many students to get to and from off campus residence daily, now add to the stress of learning in higher institutions. Many of the available infrastructural facilities in higher institutions are aged and in deplorable condition. The state of laboratories in higher institutions, also leave much to be desired. Array of expired reagents, obsolete, dusty and non-functional equipment abound in the laboratories of many higher institutions today. Theory of practical has replaced real practical in the laboratory thus making many science and technology students to graduate without adequate exposure to practical training [31]. All these disturbing situations do make some students to enlist in secret cults.

**Pupils/Students' Role:** Many cultists are fond of acting under the influence of drugs to commit crime. In the campuses, dangerous drugs like cocaine, Indian hems, heroine among others are consumed by cultists so as to give them the boldness to carry out their wicked activities. Many students also enlist in cult for self protection against the attack of members of another cult groups. Some students do join cult to settle score with colleagues, particularly those they are having an axe to grind with in campuses. The influence of peer on a child's attitude cannot be overemphasized. There are situations when innocent students will be lured into joining cult by their colleagues. Those that feel indisposed to it will be threatened and even murdered. A cultist at the point of

renunciation confesses:

*...Prior to my decision to join the Neo Black Movement (NBM), there was another fellow in my secondary school days whom I met in the university. He was a member of Pyrates Confraternity, an Ahoi'. He talked of belonging to a cult, which houses men of timber and caliber in our larger society. 'Korofo' has got me.*

Some students are fond of joining cult to boost their ego in campuses. These students do count it as opportunity to showcase themselves among their colleagues in campuses.

## EFFECTS OF CULTISM IN NIGERIA'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Cultism is now a serious and dreaded virus in Nigerian education system. Without mincing words, the joy of being student of educational institution in Nigeria in the past is now being replaced with the fear of being killed by bullet due to the activities of cultists. [32] lamented that higher education in Nigeria is now under siege, bombardment and almost ruined by secret cults. Majority of students, lecturers and their families now live in perpetual fear. Under the cover of darkness, the cultists torture, rape, kidnap, rob and maim anybody in the campus who dare cross their way. They are also fond of cheating openly

during examination and threaten innocent lecturers who dare attempt to apprehend them. They often carry fire arms, daggers, axes and knives. Through the violent cult cases in educational institutions, many students who could have been useful to the nation and families have lost their lives while many have been registered among the physically challenged in the society. Table 1 show some of the past cult cases in Nigeria and effects.

Many valuable properties of educational institutions, government and individuals in the society had been destroyed by cultists in Nigeria. Many suspected and accused cultists had also in the past been rusticated or expelled from their institutions. Report [33] indicates that eighteen (32) students of Ogun State University, Ago Iwoye were suspended while ninety (90) students of Edo State University (now Ambrose Alli University) were rusticated over alleged involvement in secret cult activities. Apart from constituting wastage of government's and parents' resources, it increases the level of unemployment and crime in the country because many out of these expelled cult members constitute dropouts who by virtue of their incomplete education always prove difficult to be recruited by employers of labour. Many thus end up as armed robbers, militants, area boys and political thugs in the society.

**Table 1: Cases of Cultism in Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria and Effects**

Year	Institution	Effects
1991	University of Benin	A student of the university received 22 machet cuts
1992	Federal Polytechnic, Oko	Six students of the polytechnic were murdered
	Auchi Polytechnic, Edo state	Two students were murdered
1993	University of Port Harcourt	Fifteen students were jailed for terms varying from five to thirty years.
	Enugu State University of Technology	Death of a part five medical student
	University of Benin	A final year student of industrial chemistry was murdered.
1994	University of Ado Ekiti	Death of two students
1996	University of Portharcourt	A student of the University was beheaded.
1997	University of Benin	Secretary General of the Students' Union was killed.
	Institute of Management Technology, Enugu	Head of Department of the Institute was murdered
	Ondo State University Ado Ekiti	A final year Banking and Finance student of the university was murdered.
1999	Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife	Seven undergraduates of the university were murdered.
	University of Ibadan	The Chief Security Officer was murdered.
2003	Edo State	A house within the city was set ablaze after ransacking it.
2002	University of Jos	Two undergraduates of the university were shot dead.
	University of Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State	A 300 level Economics student was shot and slaughtered.
2005	College of Education, Ekiadolor, Benin	A student was beheaded.
	Delta State University	Massive destruction of parts of the campus, burning of Vice Chancellor's lodge as well as the Department of Linguistic building.

Source: Compiled by Author

Some cultists do graduate to become notorious criminals in the society. Presently, cases of armed robberies and kidnapping are rampant in Nigeria. The case of Niger Delta militancy that has within the last decade become a nightmare in Nigeria leaves much to be desired. Militancy is now a money- making venture in Nigeria. Many wealthy citizens including foreign expatriates at oil companies are now being kidnapped and forced to part with huge sum of money as a condition for their release. Many of these youths are members of secret cult in campuses, having graduated into the society to become notorious criminals. Over the years, governments have been spending money on how to curb cultism in the campuses. Workshops, Seminars and conferences on how to eradicate the menace are being organized while institutions' administrators often go to the extent of organizing forum for renunciation of cultists in their domains. All these programmes require huge sum of money, which supposed to be utilized for the development of institutions. In Nigeria, violent and bloody cult clashes often lead to closure of institutions and disruption of academic calendar where students often suffer due to compression of academic calendar that follow.

Educational system in Nigeria is now under serious criticisms, particularly at international level. One argument against it is the prevalence of cultism in educational institutions. Presently, if there any issue that has earned education a negative image in Nigeria, it is no one than cultism. It is now a monster in campuses just like the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) that is now spreading like 'harmattan fire' and defiling all forms of cure. Unfortunately, higher institutions in Nigeria are now centres of wailing where parents need to pray before releasing their children for training.

## **REMOVING CULT VIRUS FROM NIGERIA'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM: THE WAY FORWARD**

In view of the prevalence of cultism and the extent to which it had gone to affect the image of education in Nigeria, it needs not be overstressed that the menace needs adequate attention and should be eradicated in Nigeria if the lost glory of the education system is to be redeemed. To eradicate cultism in the system however calls for the involvement of all the education stakeholders including government, parents and guardians, institutions' administrators, education planners and policy makers among others. There should therefore be public enlightenment campaign on the issue, to increase the awareness of students and parents. Seminars, workshops, symposium and public lecture, cultism should be organized regularly for students where the dangers involved in cultism will be discussed.

Institutions' administrators should continue to promote peace in their respective institutions. They should ensure that there is regular communication between them and students to prevent the development of rumour, which can lead to crisis. They should also enforce discipline among teachers/lecturers in their domains. Cases of sexual harassment of female students and involvement of teachers/lecturers in cultism should always be investigated while those found culpable should be reprimanded. Orientation, guidance and counseling programmes should be organized for pupils and students by institutions' administrators to discourage pupils and students from enlisting in cult.

Renunciation forums should be organized in educational institutions and supported by government. Institutions' administrators should promote academic excellence in their institutions and provide recreational activities for pupils and students to keep them busy in the institutions. Student unionism should be encouraged particularly at higher level while victimization of union executives by administrators and government should be discouraged. Parents should give proper moral training to their children so that they can be good ambassadors of their homes in the future. Sale of crime films and showing these on television screen and cinema houses including the internet should be banned by government.

During admission process, it has becomes imperative for interview of prospective candidates for admission into the various higher institutions. Through this, it will be possible to select only the best candidates in terms of academic and behavioural traits.

## **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

Just like the case of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) that is currently ravaging many people in the world and attracting the attention of world leaders, the issue of cultism is attracting education stakeholders' attention in Nigeria. Many students are dying daily while properties worth colossal sum of money are destroyed through this menace. The standard of education is now adjudged to be falling in Nigeria [2, 4, 3]. One of the factors being attributed to this is the incessant cult cases, which are disrupting academic calendar in educational institutions in the country. In this paper, what cult and cultism means and its origin were discussed. The scope and objectives of education in Nigeria were further highlighted. Factors such as lack of parental control, peer and drug influence on students, prevalence of crime inclined films in the society among others, which are influencing cultism, were also discussed.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Federal Republic of Nigeria (2004). National Policy on Education (Revised). Abuja, Nigeria
- [2] Saint, W., Hartnett, T.A., & Strassner, E. (2003). Higher education in Nigeria: A status report. *Higher Education Policy*, 16: 250-281
- [3] Okebukola, P (2002). The state of university education in Nigeria. Abuja, Nigeria: National Universities Commission.
- [4] Dabaleen, A., Oni, B., & Adekola, A.O (2000). Labour market prospects for university graduates in Nigeria. Background Study Conducted to inform the Design of the Nigerian University System's Innovation Project. Washington D.C: World Bank
- [5] Akerele, W.O (2001, July 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>). Managing Nigeria's Higher Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Paper presented during the proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Social Sciences Academy of Nigeria at Abuja, Nigeria
- [6] Lassa, P (1998). Aberration in Nigerian education system. UNESCO (Ed) The state of education in Nigeria. Lagos, Nigeria: UNESCO Regional Office
- [7] Famade A.O (2001). Sociological foundations of education. Lagos, Nigeria: Pumack Nigeria
- [8] Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary (2004). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press
- [9] Kneller, G.P (1963). Foundations of education. New York: Wiley
- [10] Owolabi, S. (1996). Political and cultural context of primary education in A.O Ajayi and J.A. Akinwumiju (Eds). *Personnel Performance and Capacity Building for Ondo/Ekiti States Primary Education Boards*.
- [11] O'Connell, J. (1965). Education and nation building in Africa". London: Pall Mall Press
- [12] Aghenta, J.A. (1999, 6<sup>th</sup> August). Human Resource Development in Nigeria: The Process, Problems and Prospects. Lecture delivered to students of College of Education, Agbor, Delta State, Nigeria
- [13] Chambers Dictionary (1998) Edinburgh, U.K: Chambers Harrap Publishers Limited
- [14] Ajakaye, D.O (2001, June). Path to the Sustainability of Higher Education in Nigeria. Paper presented at 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Social Sciences Academy of Nigeria
- [15] Obadan, C.E (1999, September 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>). Combating cultism in Ondo State University, Ado Ekiti through Law enforcement: An Institutional Approach. Paper presented at a two day conference on combating cultism in Nigerian Tertiary Institutions, organized by Ondo State University, Ado Ekiti, Nigeria
- [16] Ogunbameru, O.A(Ed) (1997). Readings in campus secret cult. Ile Ife: Kuntel Publishing House
- [17] Aguda, A.S (1997). The environment of secret cult, in Readings in Campus Secret Cult. Ile Ife: Kuntel Publishing House
- [18] Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999). Constitution of Nigeria. Abuja, Nigeria: Federal Government Press
- [19] Adewale, R (2005). Violence in the citadel: The menace of secret cults in Nigerian universities. *Nordic Journal of African Studies*, 14(1): 79-98
- [20] Adelola, I.O.A (1999, September 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>). Combating cultism in Ondo State University, Ado Ekiti through Socio-Political Approach. A paper presented at a two day conference on combating Cultism in Nigerian Tertiary Institutions organized by Ondo State University, Ado Ekiti.
- [21] Oritusin, J (1990). The making of Sea Dogs, the oldest cult. *National Concord*, 27th Jul, p. 5
- [22] Igodo, C (2002). Campaign against cultism and drug addiction among youths in Nigeria. Calabar, Nigeria. Centre for General African Studies, Research and Documentation
- [23] Ajayi, I.A., Haastrup, T.E., & Osalusi, F.M (2010). Menace of cultism in Nigerian tertiary Institutions: The way out. *Anthropologists*, 12(3): 155-160
- [24] Omotunde, D (1984). Religious fanaticism and cultism. *National Concord*, 13th Mar, p. 15.
- [25] Adelola, I.O.A (1997). Secret cults in Nigerian institutions of learning: A periscopal appraisal, in Readings on campus secret cults, O.A Ogunbameru (Ed) Ile Ife: Kuntel Publishing House.
- [26] Saint, W., Hartnett, T.A., & Strassner, E. (2003). Higher education in Nigeria: A statusreport. *Higher Education Policy*, 16: 250-281
- [27] Sanyaolu, A. (2007). Unemployment crisis: Nigeria at crossroads. *Guardian*
- [28] Nwadiani, M (1999). Dystrophies in higher education: The Nigerian experience. *Higher Education Review*, 31 (3): 17-26
- [29] Monehin. O.B.(2003, March). "The Universityand the Development of Nigerian Society". A Paper presented at the universities' stakeholders' forum at Abuja, Nigeria
- [30] The Nation (2009, 9<sup>th</sup> April)
- [31] Onokerhoraye, A.G., & Nwoye, M.I. (1995). Mobilization and management of financial resources in Nigeria universities. Benin City, Nigeria: Social Sciences Series for Africa.
- [32] Ossai, A.G. (2001).Cultism and the management of higher education. A Seminar paper presented at the Faculty of Education, Delta State University, Abraka.
- [33] National Universities Commission (2001). University System News.